

service projects at retirement communities in Chelsea, Detroit, and Ann Arbor, all of which have made a true difference in the lives of many families around Michigan.

Specifically, there are projects across mid and Southern Michigan, such as the Alzheimer's/memory loss unit at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital or the soon to open 120-bed Alzheimer's and memory loss facility in Chelsea, that would not have been completed without the work, leadership, and commitment of Mr. Foote. These projects have made and will continue to make a positive difference in our community and to our families.

Mr. Foote leaves his post as a nationally recognized leader in the field of long-term care. But most importantly, he ends his tenure after serving the people of Chelsea on the highest level. I thank Mr. Foote for his service and dedication and I wish him and his family the very best in the future.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH CITIZENSHIP ANNIVERSARY OF EMERY GROSINGER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to make a special tribute to a proud American who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his U.S. citizenship.

Emery Grosinger came to our country more than 50 years ago as a young boy who had already endured a lifetime of hardship. Born in a part of eastern Europe that has passed back and forth between Romania and Hungary, Emery at the age of 10 was deported, separated from his family, and sent to concentration camps, including Auschwitz. He survived and came to the United States after World War II. He served in the Army, started a business, and raised a family.

Mr. Grosinger is having a celebration for being an American for 50 years. But all of us in America also need to celebrate his 50 years as our fellow American. His life and his passion for freedom and for justice are part of what makes our country great. How fortunate we are to live in a country that stands as a beacon of freedom for the world. How fortunate we are that America looks not to where you are from, but to what is in your heart and where you are going. People like Emery—whose hearts led them to America and whose love for our country enlightens us all—give our country hope and a bright future.

Mr. Grosinger loves America, and I am proud to extend to him my most heartfelt good wishes in honor of the 50th anniversary of his U.S. citizenship.

REORGANIZING GARY BRYAN FILLETTE'S WINNING ESSAY

HON. JOHN COOKSEY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, The Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsor a yearly scriptwriting contest and I am proud to represent the win-

ner from the State of Louisiana, Mr. Gary Bryan Fillette of Alexandria. Gary wrote an excellent script on "My Voice in our Democracy" and I submit it to be made part of the permanent record. I hope that my colleagues will take a moment to read Gary's words and that we all remember what a great privilege and responsibility we have in representing the ideals that he expresses.

"MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"—1997-98 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

(Gary Fillette, Louisiana Winner)

When a baby wants something done, he has a way of letting everyone around him know. No matter if he's in his crib or at a crowded mall, he catches the attention of everybody with his distinctive cry, and keeps crying out until someone does something to satisfy him.

I learned from a baby. In a democracy I must freely and adamantly express my ideas until others listen to what I say. With my voice, I help fulfill my ever-present duty to improve America for both present and future generations.

I have a privilege that not all humans have. As an American, I have a voice in a democracy, and I have to use that voice if democracy is to mean something to me. For over 200 years, Americans have risked their lives for our nation. To show respect for these men and women, the least I can do is take what they have given me—a democracy—and support it vocally with my ideas.

Not everyone has the privilege to voice their opinions. In China, the government silences any utterance that opposes the government. In the Tiananmen Square demonstrations, the Chinese government muted the cries for more democracy and less government corruption by murdering 500 to 1,000 innocent Chinese citizens, leaving the democracy movement in ruins. Unlike China's citizens, I can speak about my government whoever and wherever I desire. I did not just get lucky, though. The lives of dedicated men and women in the Armed Services had to be sacrificed so that I could have my voice in our democracy.

Unfortunately, many young Americans often feel as though their opinions are too inferior to mention. Contrary to this belief, as an American citizen from birth, I have always had the responsibility to contribute my ideas to our nation. As a baby I cried at the top of my lungs for something, probably not patriotism; but then, as I became a young child, I learned what was important in my life as an American. I learned to say "The Pledge of Allegiance" and sing "The Star Spangled Banner." I did not just recite these familiar patriotic words. I respected what they stood for—freedom, democracy, and liberty, all made possible by the men and women whose blood was shed so that mine could flow. As I grew older and taller and my voice began to crack, I contributed my ideas as a Boy Scout. With an even deeper voice, I have spoken in mock governments and voted in mock elections as I learned more about the government at Boys State. I speak to others about our democracy in patriotic speech programs. As an adult, my voice will carry even farther, as I run for office or speak in favor of new ideas at election time. And most importantly, my voice will be heard with my vote: the single, most important characteristic of our democracy.

Without my voice and yours, the word democracy means nothing to us. Consider what a government of the people and by the people, would be if all the people were silent. It would be an idea that everyone thought was great, but it would remain just that: an idea. Fortunately, colonists, like Josiah Quincy,

spoke out against oppression in favor of independence. Quincy stated, "Under God, we are determined that whosoever, whensoever, or howsoever we shall be called to make our exit, we will die free men." These words helped inspire the fight for an independent nation. The formation of our democracy was not, however, a stopping point. We must continue to support our government with our voices. In the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights I am guaranteed the all-important freedom of speech. By freely voicing my opinions alongside other Americans, our democracy can thrive "for the people."

Although the audible characteristics of my voice have changed during my lifetime, what my voice has said, has always been loud and clear. Just as a baby's voice catches the attention of everyone, my voice is an intercom to spread the word to others of the importance of each individual in our democracy. Experiencing gradual pitch changes, my voice is also an instrument to show respect for those who sacrificed their lives for mine. In the future, my voice will continue to be a tool to repair and strengthen our democracy for future generations. The next time I hear a baby cry, I'll appreciate his expressions of his ideas, however loud they may be, and follow his example as I cry out for democracy.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING KRISTIN WARNER, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Kristin Warner, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Kristin is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Kristin is an exceptional student at Jonesville High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Kristin is the team captain for the school Quiz Bowl and a member of the schools S.A.D.D. program. Kristin is also involved with varsity track, cheerleading and cross country. Outside the school, Kristin is involved with various community activities.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Kristin Warner for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To his remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.